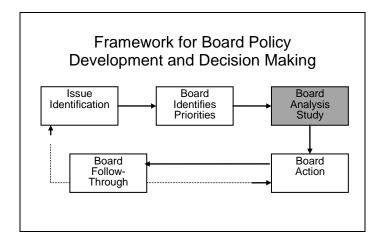
Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

March 31, 2011



Agenda Item: 2010 National Teacher of the Year

lowa Goal: All K-12 students will achieve at a high level.

Equity Impact

Statement: All students should have access to excellent teachers.

Presenter: Sarah Brown Wessling

2010 National Teacher of the Year

Attachments: None

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board hear and discuss

this information.

Background: Wessling is a 10th through 12th grade English teacher at

Johnston High School in Johnston, Iowa. In April 2010, she was selected as the 60th National Teacher of the Year.

Wessling is passionate about education in the 21st century. In her classroom, she finds a balance between problem solving and critical thinking skills and teaching traditional content by stepping far outside the five paragraph essay and into the world of surveys, songs, film storyboards, Facebook pages, and a yearly grant project in which the whole town gets involved. She says, "Students construct knowledge when it is

relevant to them and when they have a real authentic

purpose."

This year, Sarah has been devoting herself full-time to being a national and international spokesperson for education. She will speak with the State Board about her experiences as National

Teacher of the Year.